

PARTIAL VETOED MEASURES

CHAPTER 650

HOUSE BILL NO. 1544

(Legislative Management)

AN ACT to provide an appropriation to the department of commerce for workforce development grants and to defray the expenses of the office of legal immigration; to create and enact subsection 6 of section 10-30.5-02 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to use of the North Dakota development fund; to provide for a legislative management report; to provide for retroactive application; and to provide an effective date.

VETO

October 25, 2023
The Honorable Dennis Johnson
Speaker of the House
North Dakota House of Representatives
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND

Re: House Bill 1544

Dear Speaker Johnson:

Pursuant to Article V, Section 9 of the North Dakota Constitution, I have signed House Bill 1544 and filed it with the Secretary of State. I also have vetoed Section 2 of HB 1544.

The North Dakota Development Fund Inc. (NDDF) was created by the Legislature in 1991 to provide flexible gap financing through loans and equity investments not available from most conventional lenders for the purpose of economic development in North Dakota. Any request of \$150,000 or more must be reviewed and approved by the NDDF Board of Directors.

Section 2 of HB 1544 creates an extra, unnecessary layer of red tape and bureaucracy by requiring the NDDF to obtain a recommendation for approval from the state's Clean Sustainable Energy Authority before providing financing for projects that enhance production of clean sustainable energy in North Dakota. This redundant hurdle will delay investments in North Dakota projects that have the potential to benefit our citizens and our state's economy.

With time to analyze and implement this policy change since it was approved last spring, we've determined that the desired benefits can be achieved, and the costs of this red tape can be eliminated, through mutual collaboration between NDDF and CSEA. We will work with the North Dakota Industrial Commission, which approves CSEA projects, and NDDF to ensure the respective boards have visibility and clarity

of each other's processes and to ensure the most efficient and effective deployment of taxpayer dollars without slowing down projects in red tape.

For the reasons stated above, Section 2 of HB 1544 is vetoed.

Sincerely,

Doug Burgum
Governor

Disapproved by the Governor on October 25, 2023.

Filed October 25, 2023

NOTE: For the full text of House Bill No. 1544, including section 2, see chapter 639.